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**GO SERV Website:**  
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#### News From the Team

**From Adam Sutkus,  
Citizen Corps Program Director**

By far the most important update involving the Citizen Corps program and emergency management throughout the state is the devastating southern California Fires. Like many other organizations, GO SERV has become very involved in assisting with response, relief and recovery efforts.

GO SERV is engaging with local, state, and national service & volunteerism organizations that are actively responding or have resources to be called upon to assist. These include: AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps; VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) teams in So. Cal.; Volunteers In Police Service (Sacramento County Sheriffs dispatched a team to assist with the donations management 800 line function at the State Operations Center); AmeriCorps Service Teams statewide; Jaycees and business private volunteer groups. GO SERV is also communicating with several CERT programs, the state's 24 Volunteer Centers taking unaffiliated volunteers, Senior Corps, Retired & Sr. Volunteer Program (RSVP), and others.

In Sacramento, GO SERV instituted a Department Operations Center to coordinate information and data pertaining to statewide volunteer and national service resources in the state. A successful process of acting as a "clearinghouse" of available volunteer and service teams has evolved in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, California OES, FEMA, the Red Cross, and others. GO SERV's staff is engaged in researching, tracking, documenting and placing volunteers to assist OES, FEMA, the volunteer community and others, as requested.

GO SERV was also asked to assist with the State Operations Center Donations Management function. Jim Brown and Brian Knudsen were dispatched to the SOC to begin the effort; Jim and Katrina Rosseini have since been sent to Pasadena to assist with volunteer coordination for the Disaster Field Office start-up. Also, in partnership with CA OES, GO SERV also helped broker a \$1 Million donation from the Allstate Foundation to fire victims.

Tracking accurate information has become an important, and difficult, task to evaluate volunteer and service involvement and availability for the fires. To that end, GO SERV has initiated an on-line resource tracking survey to capture groups involved with the fire and emergency activities overall. Please go to our website at [www.goserv.ca.gov](http://www.goserv.ca.gov) to register your organization and receive updates. We are updating this information daily and providing it to the DFO in Pasadena and our partner organizations.

Here is the latest information that we have: The southern California fires (as of November 5, 2003) consumed a total acreage of 745,190 with approximately 3,641 residences destroyed along with 1,184 outbuildings.

National service and volunteer response and recovery efforts associated with GO SERV have included:

- RSVP volunteers in San Bernardino County working 11-16 hour shifts assisting the Phelan Sheriff in evacuation efforts. Many of these volunteers are members of the station's search and rescue team and have worked in forest fire emergencies in the past.
- Fifty-two members of AmeriCorps\*National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) in Sacramento were

deployed to San Bernardino to serve full-time in mass care efforts to provide shelter, food, clothing, rent and relocation, and counseling services.

- Seventy Foster Grandparents serving with Catholic Charities of San Diego serve in local parishes and shelters to provide comfort and reassurance to needy parents and to read and play with the children who are not able to return to their homes.
- Five members of AmeriCorps City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley were deployed to San Bernardino to serve as Spanish translators in the Local Assistance Center (LAC) as well as assist with the coordination of volunteers at the Inland Empire Volunteer Center.
- AmeriCorps members serving with the National Readiness and Response Corps based out of Los Angeles were deployed to San Diego and other fire areas to serve as Mass Care Technicians, helping run emergency shelters for the evacuees and serving meals to firefighters. They were also assigned as Logistics Technicians, providing orientation and training to local disaster volunteers. This AmeriCorps program is sponsored by the American Red Cross.

Like many of you, we will stay involved with the fires for the duration. Many thanks to the outpouring of support from the volunteer and service community to assist with the fires.

### **Funding Update**

On November 3rd, the Department of Homeland Security released its 2004 grant package to the states. At the end of November, California will be submitting an application to the Office of Domestic Programs for 3 combined programs: the State Homeland Security Program, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program and the Citizen Corps Program. Different than in 02 and 03, the 04 grants to California will be coordinated through a single entity--the Office of Homeland Security. GO SERV is retaining direct management of the Citizen Corps program and has started working in partnership and regularly with OHS and CA OES to craft California's application by the deadline. As with the other programs in the "bundle," Citizen Corps will be following the strict deadlines set by ODP for the grants and GO SERV will work closely with sub-grantees as the 3-program guidance is released local government, expected in December. The total funding allocated to California for 2004 Citizen Corps is \$ 2.78 Million; significantly more than the \$1.49 Million CERT grant of 2003.

Details will be forthcoming on the specifics of the 2004 grant. In general, the ODP guidance is much more flexible than in past years for Citizen Corps, which should allow for more creative applications to California's maturing Citizen Corps and CERT programs.

### **End of Performance period for '02 Grants**

December 4, 2003 marks the end of the 2002-2003 Performance Period. All Citizen Corps & CERT grant activities for the program year should be completed by this date. Final invoices are due to GO SERV sixty (60) days after the close of the

performance period—by February 4, 2004. GO SERV will consider requests for “no-cost extensions” for the 2002-2003 year to allow those grantees additional time to complete proposed grant activities. Please contact your GO SERV program/grant officer by December 4 to request an extension.

### **Application Deadline**

2003 CERT Applications are due Monday, November 10, 2003. A 30-day extension may be available for counties directly impacted by the fires - please contact your GO SERV program/grant officer by November 10. Extensions will not be granted automatically, and **counties that do not submit applications by the deadline risk losing their 2003 allocation**. These unencumbered funds will be distributed to other grantees or special CERT projects.

### **Humboldt CERT TTT Postponed**

Due to the Southern California fires and GO SERV involvement, the Humboldt TTT has been postponed until further notice. The TTT will happen in the near future but the new date will not be determined until the Southern California Fire recovery effort is well under way.

### **GO SERV will be holding it's second Statewide CERT Focus Group Meeting in the near future**

GO SERV had planned a second Statewide CERT Focus group meeting for Nov. 4. Unfortunately, the Southern California Wildfires forced GO SERV to postpone the meeting to a date that is yet to be determined. Details will be coming soon.

At the first focus group meeting, the participants highlighted a key need: CERT “instructor training” to allow for a wider pool of qualified individuals to teach TTT classes statewide. This “T-4” course will be a development focus as we move into the 2003 grant cycle.

## Grantee Technical Assistance Workshops a Success

GO SERV recently held two grantee workshops, which 70 people attended. At the Sacramento workshop, attendees were able to hear a lunch time speech from FEMA Region IX Director Jeff Griffin. Director Griffin called GO SERV a "model" for other states to follow regarding the implementation of the Citizen Corps program grants.

Thank-you to all of the people who participated in the panel discussions and provided the groups with some excellent examples of Best and Promising Practices.

We look forward to future workshops.

## MRC Funding Update

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, last week, released \$8 million nationally for continuation and new Medical Reserve Corps grants. Of this \$8 million, California receives a little under \$600,000, three continuation grants and nine new program grants.

The new MRC grantees are Volunteer Center of Riverside County, San Bernardino County Medical Society, Sacramento Dist. Advisory Board Church of the Nazarene, Public Health Foundation Enterprises Inc.(City of Industry), Palo Alto Institute for Research & Education, County of Sonoma-Department of Health Services, County of San Diego, City of Cupertino, Beach Cities Health District (Redondo Beach).

These MRC grants in California mark a dramatic increase in attention to these programs in the state. Medical Reserve Corps will be a major focus in 2004.

The three continuation grants are Morgan Hill MRC, Volunteer MRC for SF, City of Fresno MRC.

## Citizen Corps Progress!!!

We now have 77 registered CERT programs in California, up from 49 this time last year. We also have 40 registered Citizen Corps Councils throughout the state. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.**

## **FAQS**

### Grantee Information

**Q.** Where can I find the **Invoice Instructions, Form, and Expense Reports** and the **Budget Revision Form** for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.**
1. Go to [www.goserv.ca.gov](http://www.goserv.ca.gov).
  2. On left hand side click on **Grantee Central**.
  3. Enter password: and then click login.
  4. On the left hand side you will now see a menu of items under **Grantee Central....Click on Citizen Corps**.
  5. You will now see the message **"Welcome to the Citizen Corps section of Grantee Central! Use the tabs above to navigate through this section of the website."**
  6. Click on the tab labeled **2002 Application Forms**. The **"Invoicing Instructions and Forms"** and the **"Budget Revision Instructions and Form"** can be found here.

**Q.** What is the contract term for my agency/organization's 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.** If you look at the top of the 1st page of the contract will see that the agreement was entered into on December 5, 2002. Also, you can find the complete term of the contract on the 2nd page of the contract labeled "II. Term." With the recently announced extension, the contract term is as follows: December 5, 2002 – December 5, 2003.

**Q.** When can my agency/organization incur

expenses for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.** Your agency/organization can only incur expenses during the contract term. The contract term is as follows: December 5, 2002 – December 5, 2003.

**Q.** When is the **FINAL** invoice due for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A.** The final invoice is due 60 days after the expiration of your contract, therefore the last day to submit an invoice is on Monday, February 2, 2004.

## **Citizens Corps Contact:**

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